

saw children on the floor, singing in English, learning new words, and painting artwork as well. On the wall behind the teacher was a drawing of a green Chinook helicopter and on the side of the helicopter was a big painted smile across the length of the helicopter.

That is the way these young people look at the United States. They are looking at these vessels of our military not as weapons of war but as machines that bring relief, and help. Later, Susan and I had supper with our troops there at the airfield. We told them how proud we are of their outstanding relief effort, about what great ambassadors they are, not just for the strength of America but also for the caring heart of America.

Today, in Pakistan, the heart of America is needed more than ever. As international attention fades and funds dry up, millions of earthquake survivors are now facing a harsh, cold winter. In the remote Himalayan region, villages at altitudes of 5,000 to 7,000 feet will soon be covered in snow. By leaving the earthquake victims exposed to the Himalayan winter, there is the real risk of seeing perhaps hundreds of thousands of preventable deaths.

We should not let such deaths happen. And thankfully, avoiding this tragic scenario is in our power. Our U.S. administration has pledged over \$500 million in aid, but these funds are urgently needed today and must reach the devastated people of Pakistan as soon as possible.

During this holiday season, and beyond, we should continue to help Americans in Louisiana and Mississippi and extend our arms to the people of Pakistan. By saving hundreds of thousands of lives during the harsh Himalayan winter, we can transform this tragic event into a story of hope, courage and perseverance.

#### INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to explain my action today related to S. 1057, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. I requested that Leader FRIST inform me prior to entering into any unanimous consent agreement relating to any amendments, motions, or any other actions relating to consideration of this bill.

This legislation exempts American Indians/Alaskan Natives from being charged a deductible, copayment, or coinsurance for an item or service for which payment may be made under the Medicaid or SCHIP programs in the Social Security Act. I am reluctant to treat one group differently from other groups. In my opinion, this is a precedent setting change. If we start by exempting one group from costsharing, then many other groups may start asking for the same exemption.

This legislation also exempts several types of property from being consid-

ered in Medicaid eligibility. We understand that there may be special circumstances that may necessitate the need for these provisions. We have requested additional information from the Indian Affairs Committee to facilitate our understanding of these exemptions. However, we have not yet received the requested information. In my opinion, without further information, these provisions send the message that resources are irrelevant to a determination of Medicaid eligibility. I don't believe that individuals should have significant resources and still be eligible for Medicaid. These provisions would create an imbalance by allowing a loophole solely for one group.

I want to be clear: it is not that I am concerned about making these changes for American Indians/Alaskan Natives, I am concerned about making these changes for any group. I welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the sponsors of this legislation, Senators MCCAIN and DORGAN, and with members of the Indian Affairs Committee on this matter. My staff has been working with staff from the Indian Affairs Committee, but they have not yet resolved my concerns.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF JAMES D.E. JONES

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the departure of Mr. James D.E. Jones from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. A native of Morristown, NJ, Mr. Jones has served with the Port Authority for 20 years, 19 of them in the Washington, DC, office. During this time, he served as liaison with Congress and several administrations on issues involving aviation, surface transportation, economic development, and public finance. I know Mr. Jones primarily for his efforts and expertise on aviation matters.

As a former Port Authority commissioner, I can tell you that the Port Authority is the most complex regional transportation agency in the country. It runs three major airports where almost 100 million passengers traveled in and out of last year. It operates the largest seaport on east coast of the United States and the second largest container port in the country. It runs a bistate mass transit system and maintains under its care and responsibility such landmark assets as the Lincoln Tunnel, the Holland Tunnel, the Bayonne Bridge, the George Washington Bridge, and the World Trade Center complex in lower Manhattan.

During his service at the Port Authority, Mr. Jones assisted policymakers in Washington as our country debated such ideas as deregulation of the airline industry to responding to the 9/11 terror attacks, which involved a substantial modification of how we provide for aviation security in our country.

Previously, Mr. Jones served as a senior staff member in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of the Secretary, where he focused on policy development and international agreements. In that capacity, he represented the U.S. Secretary of Transportation in dozens of bilateral international negotiations on aviation, taking him to 20 foreign countries.

Mr. Jones completed his undergraduate work at Howard University and received his MBA degree from Harvard University Business School. His accomplishments are evidence that his skills have certainly served him well throughout his career.

I am thankful for Mr. Jones' service at the Port Authority. His talents were a great asset to policymakers and lawmakers throughout the Federal Government, and his services helped shape policies for our country that make our aviation system the envy of the world.

On behalf of many New Jersey travelers, I thank Mr. Jones, and I wish him continued success.●

##### CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am excited to congratulate the women Huskies on their terrific win in the NCAA Championships. Not only has UW's women's volleyball team given the University a new championship trophy, but they have given young girls across our State new role-models and proof that they can reach their dreams.

We need to ensure that any young girl who dreams of making the team, wearing a sports jersey or winning a college championship has the opportunity to succeed. That's why—as a Congress—we need to protect Title IX and the future of every girl in Washington State and around the country who wants to play sports.

For the past 33 years, Title IX has opened doors to athletics, education and success for millions of young women across America. Title IX is not about politics, it is about helping young women—like the members of UW's women's volleyball team—achieve their dreams.

I am proud of the UW women's volleyball team, their 32-1 record, and the fact that they became the first team in a 64-team NCAA tournament format to win all six matches by a sweep. I know I join volleyball fans statewide—and young female athletes everywhere—in congratulating them on their accomplishment.●

##### TRIBUTE TO STAN AND EUNICE KIMMITT

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the lives of two people very close to me, Montana, and the Senate. Stan and Eunice Kimmitt were both remarkable individuals and touched many lives over the years. In an effort to preserve their memory, I